

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraphs on page 12, line 26-page 14, line 1 as follows:

Meanwhile, in the first embodiment, various strategies may be used for the purpose of establishing a period of the sustaining pulse widely. For instance, as shown in Fig. 6A and Fig. 6B, a high width T10 of the sustaining pulse only can be increased to a high width T12 to set a period of the sustaining pulse widely. The low width T11 of the sustaining pulse is maintained.

More specifically, as shown in Fig. 6A and Fig. 6B, as it goes from a lower APL into a higher APL, a high width T10 of the sustaining pulse is increased to the width T12 to set a period of the sustaining pulse widely. If a high width of the sustaining pulse is widened, then it becomes possible to cause a stable sustain discharge. In other words, if a high width of the sustaining pulse is widened, then a time capable of generating a sustain discharge is widened so that a probability capable of causing the sustaining discharge is increased.

Alternatively, in the first embodiment, the APL is divided into a plurality of regions as seen from a dotted line in Fig. 6A, and a sustaining pulse having the same high width is applied in the APL included in the same region while a sustaining pulse having a different period can be applied at the APL included in a different region.

Otherwise, in the first embodiment, a low width of the sustaining pulse only may be increased as shown in Fig. 7A and Fig. 7B for the purpose of setting a period of the sustaining pulse widely. More specifically, as shown in Fig. 7A and Fig. 7B, as it goes from a lower APL into a higher APL, a low width T11 of the sustaining pulse can be more increased to a low width T13 to set a period of the sustaining pulse widely. The high width T10 of the sustaining pulse is

maintained. If a low width of the sustaining pulse is enlarged in proportion to the APL, it becomes possible to prevent an idle interval from being increased in a high APL, thereby causing a stable sustain discharge. In other words, if a low width of the sustaining pulse is enlarged in proportion to the APL, then an idle interval at which any sustaining pulse is not applied can be almost constantly kept irrespectively of the APL. If the idle interval is not widened in response to a high APL, then it becomes possible to cause a stable sustain discharge.